

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-20 and 22-24 are currently pending. The present Amendment amends Claims 2-5 and 15; and cancels Claims 1 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed application. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Besson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,325, herein “Besson”); Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,334, herein “Wang”); Claims 3, 4, 6, 9-11, and 15 were objected to but noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 2, 12-14, 16-20, and 22-24 were allowed. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in the claims.

In response to the rejections of independent Claims 1 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Claims 1 and 21 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering the rejections moot.

In response to the rejections of Claims 5, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Claim 5 is amended to depend from allowed independent Claim 2 rather than from independent Claim 1. Therefore, since Claim 1 was a broader version of allowed Claim 2, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent Claims 5, 7, and 8 (and all other associated dependent claims) are now allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

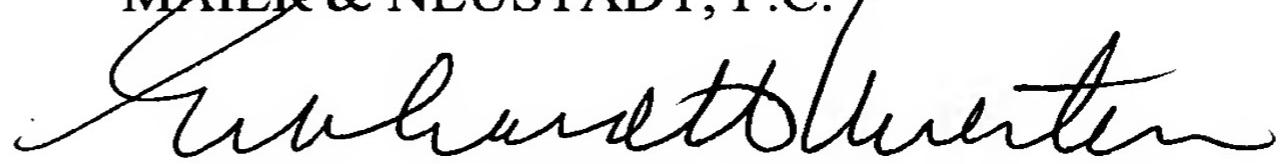
Application No. 10/656,277
Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2005

condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 2-20 and 22-24 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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